and 24 are functioning in Trans-Yamuna areas of Delhi.

(b) In Trans-Yamuna area, telephone connections under 'General' category have been released upto 26.10.76 in Shahdara (20) exchange and upto 27.12.66 in Shahdara (21 and 24) exhange as on 1.4.86.

(c) A new 15,000 lines digital electronic exchange is under installation at Laxmi Nagar and is planned for commissioning during 1986-87. Another 10,000 lines digital electronic exchange is planned for commissioning at Laxmi Nagar during 1987-88 subject to availability of additional fund allocations to the Department for 7th Five Year Plan.

(d) After the commissioning of the two exchanges mentioned at (c) above, the present waiting list is likely to be cleared during the 7th Plan period.

श्री अच्छे लाल बाल्मोक : सभापित महोदय, दिल्ली की आबादी के अनुपात में यमुनापार क्षेत्र के टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की तुलनात्मक औसत क्या है ? इस क्षेत्र में टेलीफोन सेवा कब तक चालू कर दी जाएगी ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन मैं इस बात से सहमत हूं कि यमुना पार के क्षेत्र में टेलीफोन सुविधा बहुत ही अपर्याप्त है उसका अन्दाज इस बात से लगाया ज सकता है कि शाहदरा 21-24 एक्सचेंज में 27-12-66 तक के ही कनेक्शन दिये गये हैं मैं स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार कर रहा हूं कि लोग वहां पर 10 वर्षों से टेलीफोन कनेक्शन की इन्तजार कर रहे हैं ।

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : माननीय सदस्य की बात का ध्यान रखते हुए इसकी आवश्यकता को देखते हुए हमने योजना बनाई है कि 15 हजार लाइन की एक एक्सचेंज तो इसी वर्ष प्रारम्भ हो जाये और एक 10 हजार लाइन की एक्सचेंज का प्रावधान भी हमने किया है अतिरिक्त धन मिलने पर इसे भी अगले वर्ष प्रारंभ कर दिया जायेगा ।

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to tell us whether the expansion of the population across the Yamuna is going at a rapid pace. This forms part of the National Capital Region. Now, in this particular area we are very much behind in telephones. But now when they are planning for the National Capital Region and some advance planning is made, are we planning for some electronic telephone exchanges to take care of the coming problems?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन् नेशनल कैपिटल रिजन एक बहुत बडा क्षेत्र है जो दिल्ली के आसपास फैला हुआ है दिल्ली राजधानी से उन क्षेत्रों को जोडने के लिए योजना बनायी गयी है हमने इसके बारे में योजना बनाई है लेकिन नेशनल कपिटल रीजन के संबंधित अधिकरण जब तक पर्याप्त मात्रा में इस क्षेत्र में हमें पैसा नहीं देगा तब तक हम केवल हमारे सामान्य कार्यक्रम ही पूरे कर सकेंगे । कुछ अतिरिक्त सहायता और राहत मिलेगी ऐसा प्रतीत नहीं होता है ।

Industrial licence to M/s. Glaxo

*166. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:† SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Glaxo has been given industrial licences for Griseofluvin, Cephalexin, Cephaloridine, Ibuprofen, Pentazocain, Renitidine, etc. during the last two years or so;

(b) if so, the capacity of each sanctioned alongwith the stage of manufacture;

(c) by when M/s. Glaxo would be able to implement all these licences;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rafique Alam.

(d) what is the validity of each permission and how much investment has already been made on each project alongwith the full break-up of each;

(e) what would be the total cost of sale of the above bulk drugs and formulations based on the drugs referred to above of this company on the basis of sanctioned capacities;

(f) whether it is a fact that this company has already started marketing formulations at exorbitant prices without obtaining price approvals based on imported bulk drugs;

(g) if so, what are the names of the products based on these drugs being marketed alongwith the price of each; and

(h) what are the reasons to allow such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (h) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) M/s. Glaxo held industrial licence for Pentazocine, Ibuprofen, Griseofulvin and Cephalexin and a letter of intent for Ranitidine.

(b) The industrial approvals stipulate production of basic stage. The capacities approved are 1375 Kg. for Pentazocine, 17,400 Kgs. for Ibuprofen 20 Tons. for Griseofulvin, 15 Tons for Cephalexin and 10 Tons. for Ranitidine.

(c) & (d) M/s. Glaxo have commenced production of Ibuprofen. Industrial licence for Griseofulvin and Cephalexin are valid upto February, 1988 and the letter of intent for Ranitidine upto April, 1987.

(e) These details are not available at this stage.

(f) M/s. Glaxo have been manufacturing and marketing Griseofulvin and Ibuprofen formulations at prices fixed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

M/s. Glaxo are marketing Cephalexin formulations on behalf of a company M/s. Capsulation Services Limited. Till the accounting year ending September, 1985 M/s. Capsulation Services were exempted for obtaining price approval. They have since applied for price fixation.

M/s. Glaxo are marketing Ranitidine formulations manufactured by a small scale company named M/s. Bio-tech Pharma, Hyderabad who are exempt from obtaining price approval as its sales turnover during the last accounting year was less than Rs. 50 lakhs.

(g) Details as reported by the company are given below:

Item of Manufacture	Maximum Retail Price
1. Cephalexin (Phexin) Capsules	50 mg. — Rs. 14.82 per 10 Tablets 500 mg. — Rs. 26.98 per 10 Tablets
2. Ranitidine (Zinetac) Tablets	150 mg. — Rs. 28.86 per 10 Tablets 300 mg. — Rs. 55.65 per 10 Tablets
3. Ibuprofen (Nugin) Tablets	200 mg. — Rs. 4.95 per 10 Tablets (Leader Price)
4. Griseofulvin (Grisovin) Tabs.	125 mg. — Rs. 4.12 per 10 Tablets (Leader Price)

(h) Non-FERA Companies are free to undertake trading activity and the onus of taking price approval, if any, for Phexin Capsules and Zinetac tablets rests with M/s. Capsulation Services and M/s. Bio-Tech Pharma respectively.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Sir, is it a fact that Glaxo is holding back Rs. 21 crores in their balance sheet as liability due to Drugs Price Equalisation Fund Account and utilising this sum of Rs. 21 crores for implementing new Industrial approvals obtained by them? Will the hon. Minister explain how far it is in public interest to permit Glaxo to divert the public finances for implementing their projects and what has been done by this department in this direction?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, half the time of Parliament is taken up on drugs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a large number of questions relating to drugs of the same company. I am going to disallow this hereafter.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the question relates to the industrial licences for six items. I do not have the information asked for. If the Member wants it, I need a separate notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the hon. Minister explain, how many Industrial approvals have been implemented by Glaxo during the last four years and how many...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been answered last week. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Mine is a simple question. I request the hon. Minister to inform me whether it is not a fact that the Acts which I referred to, the Drug (Price Control) Act, the Essential Commodities Act, the MRTP Act and other Acts, and violation of any such Acts, attracts penalty clauses provided in these Acts. Now, with....

MR. CHAIRMAN: This also was replied to last time. You are putting the same question again. I am going to the next question.

Shortage of vital drugs

*167. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent statement made by the Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association to the effect that there was an imminent nation-wide shortage of vital drugs and medicines as there was no clearance of almost all bulk drugs; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to continue the supply of vital drugs and medicines to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to a press release of the Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association dated 19th March, 1986, the withdrawal of exemption of excise duty on bulk drugs had led to shoppage of clearances of and interruption of production of bulk drugs Excise duty on bulk drugs has since been withdrawn by the Ministry of Finance vide Notification dated 3rd April, 1986.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Sir, the declared policy of the Government is to make drugs and medicines, particularly the vital ones, available to the people at large at the lowest possible prices, at the cheapest possible rates. This particular exemption of the excise duty on bulk drugs has led to not merely an increase in the prices of drugs and shortage of drugs, but has also endangered the lives of many people. It appears that soon after the withdrawal of the exemption of excise duty. The excise duty has been withdrawn from 3rd April, 1986— this problem has appeared. May I know, in this context, what are the reasons which led to the withdrawal of the excise duty? It obviously shows non-application of mind and probably also lack of wisdom. The exemption has been withdrawn from 3rd April, 1986.